

Hamlet

Act II Study Guide

Answer the questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

Scene 1

1. Where is Reynaldo being sent? Why?
2. Describe the encounter between Ophelia and Hamlet. (lines 99-112)
3. What conclusion about Hamlet does Polonius come to at the end of this scene? (lines 123-132)

Scene 2

4. Who are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? What are they instructed to do? (1-42)
5. How does the King of Norway respond to his Nephew's plot against Denmark? What is young Fortinbras new plan of action? (64-85)
6. What does Gertrude believe to be the cause of Hamlet's "distemper"? (56-60)
7. What does Polonius believe to be the cause of Hamlet's "distemper"? (91-181).
8. What is Polonius' plan to find the true cause of Hamlet's "antic disposition"? (171-181)
9. How & why does Hamlet use figurative language with Polonius? List 2 examples. (185-237)
10. Explain the "prison" and "shadow" metaphors Hamlet uses when speaking with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. (257 - 285)
11. Hamlet's speech to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern is rich with figurative language. List 4 examples and explain them. What does the audience learn about Hamlet's attitude and behavior in these lines? What statement is Shakespeare, through the character of Hamlet, saying about human nature? (316 - 334)
12. Explain the allusion to Jephthah in lines 427 - 436.
13. A group of players (or actors) arrive at Elsinore. What is the significance of the speech about Pyrrhus that Hamlet requests to hear? (458 - 544)
14. What 2 requests does Hamlet ask of the actor? (560 - 569)
15. Explain Hamlet's analogy in lines 578 - 598.
16. Hamlet uses several metaphors and similes to describe himself in the last speech (576 - 634). Quote 3 examples and explain his self-image or mindset.
17. How has Hamlet's opinion of the ghost changed? What is Hamlet's new plan of action? (616-634)